

Regular Meeting Minutes  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Wednesday, June 18, 2003  
Via Linda Senior Center  
10400 E. Via Linda

Present: Vice-chair Leigh Hersey, Commissioners David Fortney, Nona Oliver, and Lynn Timmons Edwards

Absent and excused: Chairperson Shelley Anderson, Commissioners Bill Heckman and Stephen Owens

Staff present: Debra Baird, Bob Cafarella, Scott Hamilton, Gary Meyer, Claire Miller, Bill Peiffer, and Judy Weiss

#### CALL TO ORDER

Vice-chair Hersey called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE

Vice-chair Hersey asked everyone to observe a moment of silence

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Timmons Edwards moved the minutes of the regular meetings of May 21, 2003 and June 5, 2003 be approved as submitted. Commissioner Oliver seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

Debra Baird, Parks, Recreation & Facilities Director, will update the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks, Recreation, & Facilities Division. The CAP Basin approval has been moved on the Council agenda from July 1<sup>st</sup> to August 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Commission Meeting Wednesday, July 16, 2003 at the Via Linda Senior Center at 5 p.m. Through the first 6 concerts at McCormick, approximately 19,000 people have attended. Ninety-three children from the Paiute and Minnezona neighborhoods left on Saturday, June 14th to Camp Wamatochik, with Norma Saldana from Neighborhood Parks. The children will return on Friday, June 20th, between 12pm and 1pm to Paiute park. Neighborhood Parks and Chaparral Park staff partnered with Media Production Company to promote the newly released movie "Rug Rats Go Wild" featuring "Spike," the dog. The event was held at the Off-leash area at Chaparral Park, and featured a dog show, demonstrations by a dog trainer, and lots of fun "dog" activities. Wet and Wild Water Day will be held on Friday, June 27 at Chaparral Pool from 11am-3pm. Mighty Mud Mania is coming up on Friday, July 25th from 8:30am to 2pm at Chaparral Park and NUMEROUS volunteers are needed for that event as well!! If you'd like to volunteer for Mighty Mud Mania, contact Terry at 480/312-2771 or e-mail [terickson@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:terickson@scottsdaleaz.gov). Scottsdale Stadium is completing the final touch up for the stadium field renovation. Irrigation heads are being set to heights and nozzles sizes calibrated. New sod has been laid out along with new stolons over the entire field. With continual warm weather and good flow of weather we should have sand turning green with grass by end of June. The first event at the Stadium is September 20<sup>th</sup>, Schlotsky's 10K Bun Run, and the field should be in great shape for it.

Commissioner Timmons Edwards indicated there were comments regarding the sound level at the McCormick concerts and wondered what was being done. Ms. Baird said there were calls from the citizens on the level of the sound. Staff is working on the direction of the sound and the levels. Commissioner Timmons Edwards said it may come down to the choice of the band.

#### MASTER PLAN APPROVAL FOR SUNRISE TRAILHEAD AT HIDDEN HILLS

Bob Cafarella, Preserve Director, Claire Miller, Preserve Manager, Gary Meyer, Parks and Trails Planning Manager, and Scott Hamilton, Trails Planner, presented the master plan for the Sunrise trailhead located at Via Linda Road near 144<sup>th</sup> Street in Hidden Hills. This plan has been through a public input process including a neighborhood meeting and public open house. It was also discussed at a joint study session between the Parks

and Recreation Commission and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission on June 5, 2003. The trailhead parcels were dedicated to the city as part of the development process.

Vice-chair Hersey opened the item for public testimony.

Laura Fogleman noted she is compelled to say how she feels. She is an avid hiker with lots of time on trails and is supportive of the trails plan. She does not approve of the parking plan as presented. It does not conform to the approved Access Area Report that says 10 acres is needed; it should be unobtrusive and respect the privacy of residents. The plan also violates the Environmentally Sensitive Land Ordinance. It does not conform to the MEDCP and that is mandatory by the City. The citizens just expect the city to uphold these agreements that were approved and endorsed by the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission and the Desert Task Force. The only protection for residents was the distance between the homes and the parking. The homeowners will do whatever they can to enforce and protect the area they live in. We support trails and the preserve but don't feel this is legal.

Scott Schleifer asks that the commission use common sense. If a Commissioner is concerned that a concert is too loud, think of what the car noise will be here. Where is the 90-foot buffer? He is not against the trailhead he just wants the city to abide by what it approved. He asked the commission to imagine hearing car alarms at 5 am.

Stephanie Potter really wants the city and Preservation Commission to honor the commitments made in the MEDCP. The residents are a part of the community and are taxpayers.

Michael Wooldridge asked if this trail is another part of the trail that meets up to it as it looks like it is. It is in everybody's back yards. Both trails are not necessary. This is excessive parking. The expense is not necessary and it creates an issue for the homeowners. From studies, the parking is more than needed. Another concern is the other trail is next to the backyards. He doesn't want people trailing back and forth through the back yards.

Jacqueline Wooldridge noted her concern is the proximity of vehicles to yards to the parking, especially the lower 3 homes. This is unsafe and a true concern.

Robert O'Connell said he is glad to see the elimination of the ramada. Will there be a picnic area where people will congregate?. Is there a rest area somewhere along the trail? He doesn't understand the need for a park situation at this site. The concerns are the distances between property lines and the edge of the site. How close are the homes to the site? The Council just approved the design contract for the trailhead on Monday and now it is before this Commission. How does that work and who designs these?

John McNicholas noted that 90 feet = 30 yards. The sign is about 85 feet from the property line. He asks that the city abide by that as it is a city sign. It is pretty early to think about deciding on a master plan when the Council just awarded the design contract 2 days ago.

Dan Gruber said he is an avid hiker and potential user. No metro area trailhead has too much parking, instead far to little. People who can park use trash receptacles, restrooms and quickly move on to the trails. Those who cannot park there do not use the trash and do not disappear from sight. They linger, idle, make noise, and litter and are worse visitors to sites.

Carla (her legal name) said she is glad that the neighbors are now understanding the situation and accepting of the trailhead. She appreciates the job done by staff. As for the changes in the MEDCP, the neighbors need to be talking to the developer. The reality is, if the parking is downsized, you will create more problems that are worse than any you can dream of for the neighborhood. The City will do everything they can to make it work. She asks the Commission to send this forward. The fears of the neighborhood will be alleviated.

DeForrest Joralmon said when Via Linda was put through the City was concerned about the neighbors on the south. They asked what kind of plants citizens wanted. The City seems to be willing to do the same for those living near the trailheads. There should be no parking along Via Linda. He supports the trailhead going in on schedule.

Vice-chair Hersey noted she has 2 cards from citizens who do not wish to speak. She then closed the public testimony. She asked staff to respond to some of the citizen questions and comments.

Mr. Hamilton said the lower trail needs to be connected to the other trail. The connection may be made lower in the wash. There are elevation changes in the wash.

Mr. Meyer noted there will be shaded areas, no picnic table but maybe seating benches at the upper trailhead. Staff has been working with the design team for some time on a short-term agreement with the design consultant. We need to keep this project moving along because grants would disappear if we don't spend them. The Bond funds are allocated by the Council each year and must be spent for specific projects.

Mr. Cafarella noted the MEDCP is a design element that the developer must submit to the City. The original did include a 90-foot buffer to the nearest home on the south side. When Suncor took the conceptual plans to final documents the residential area was significantly moved and 2 lots were added adjacent to the trailhead site. The parking area was established and deeded to the City. When the developer looked at more detailed planning they changed the proximity of the nearest homes. Staff went back to see if there was any text about the 90-foot buffer and found none. They checked many sources and found that the MEDCP was conceptual. The overall plan goes to the Development Review Board. The Access Areas Report prepared in 1994 was updated in 1999. In minor access areas the City would like to have 10 acres. You may have as many as 100 spaces in 10 acres. This is significantly less than that. This is not what the City initiated. The developer took the report and told the City what they were willing to provide to the City. The City prefers one location but that is not what the developer provided and this is what we have to work with. It complies with the stipulation. We will do the best we can to achieve all the things that have been discussed in the design of the facility.

Vice-chair Hersey asked the Commissioners for questions.

Commissioner Oliver asked when the parking is in place will the berm be gone. If it rains is this going to have drains? Mr. Meyer said staff will work with the engineers to provide natural drainage. The trail is in a wash and there may be a water flow and occasionally the trail would not be usable. Typically excess water dissipates very quickly.

Commissioner Fortney asked if the trail designated in green on the map is in the wash or along the fence. Mr. Hamilton said it is along the wash when it comes out of the culvert. There is a possibility to bring that trail out quicker and meet the other trail sooner. Commissioner Fortney is concerned about the trail going along the residents' fences. Mr. Hamilton said you can't walk on the trail and look into someone's pool as it is in the wash. Commissioner Fortney asked if the gate separates the 2 subdivisions. Mr. Hamilton said the area north of the gate is private access. Commissioner Fortney asked how many homes are in the upper area of Hidden Hills. Mr. Hamilton did not have that figure on hand and responded to Commissioner Fortney that there are more than 25. Commissioner Fortney asked if the gate to the access area will be closed after dark. Mr. Hamilton said it would. Commissioner Fortney said there could be public parking and asked how long the sign has been there. Mr. Hamilton said since the early part of 2000. The City was contacted by the developer to install the signs. The City just provided the logo and phone numbers, and Suncor fabricated and installed the signs. Commissioner Fortney asked if the houses were built then. Mr. Hamilton said some were, but the majority were not.

Commissioner Timmons Edwards said there was a 25-page document that identified this site that every homeowner had to sign. Mr. Hamilton confirmed this and displayed the portion of the public report addressing the trailhead planned. The cover page states that everyone should read and sign it and that is a requirement. Commissioner Timmons Edwards said this was a part of the package every homeowner received. Mr. Hamilton said that is a requirement.

Commissioner Oliver asked if staff has talked about lowering the parking area at the upper site. Mr. Meyer said we will cut into the slope to lower the trailhead. The consultant would like to continue to work to lower the parking lot at the upper site to shield views by the adjacent homeowners and drain the site correctly. It is the goal to provide a scenic parking lot and protect the views.

Vice-chair Hersey asked if we will be able to continue with the berming. Mr. Meyer said there is a limit to berming as it impacts the natural vegetation. Cutting into the site will accomplish what we want to do. NAOS restricts

supplemental landscaping. Vice-chair Hersey asked if a horse-trailer spot was added. Mr. Meyer said it was and is now at a total of 4 horse trailer parking spaces in the lower trailhead. The new design allows for flexibility in the length of spaces. Vice-chair Hersey asked if there will be water for the horses. Mr. Meyer said there would be.

Vice-chair Hersey said she attended the Council meeting on Monday and wants to compliment staff on implementing the changes so quickly. This is a proactive approach to listening.

Commissioner Timmons moved to approve the master plan for the Sunrise Trailheads at Hidden Hills as presented and with suggested changes. Commissioner Fortney seconded.

Commissioner Timmons noted she is in favor of this and is frustrated with the protocol of developers. The neighborhood and City have done a tremendous job to come up with this compromise. It is important to have public access at this site. She is sympathetic to neighbors. It is not possible to put all parking at the southern sight. The neighbors will get all the landscaping they want. She is an advocate for the seating and the ability to congregate and hopes that we would have some seating. This is a place for the public from anywhere in Scottsdale to come and enjoy.

Vice-chair Hersey asked if the realignment of the trail through the wash could be a part of the motion. Vice-chair Hersey is concerned about having too little parking. The street is too small for any on-street parking. Staff and contractors have done an excellent job in trying to work with the residents.

Commissioner Timmons agreed to amend motion to comply with the trail adjustment through the wash. Commissioner Fortney agreed to second the amended motion.

Vice-chair Hersey called for the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

#### OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

Vice-chair Hersey asked for any items from the floor. There were none.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Timmons Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Oliver seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to be brought before the commission, Vice-chair Hersey adjourned the meeting at 6:35.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Johnson, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.

Debra Baird, Director  
Parks, Recreation & Facilities